

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 L-02 DPW-01 PM-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 PRS-01 AID-10

IO-03 EUR-10 RSR-01 SSO-00 /080 W
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P 151238 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3269

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 10807

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: DAILY MR3 SITREP FOR 15 JUNE 1973

FOL SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM BIEN HOA AND RPTD FOR YOUR INFO QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEN HOA 0202

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJ: DAILY MR 3 SITREP - 15 JUNE 08&73

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY CONTINUED AT MODERATE LEVEL IN MR 3
IN 24 HOURS ENDING 0800 JUNE 15, FOUR HOURS BEFORE CEASE-
FIRE SHOULD BE " STRICTLY OBSERVED." MR 3 G-2 REPORTED 27
INCIDENTS, CONSISTING OF 11 ATTACKS BY FIRE (TWO OVER 20
ROUNDS), NINE GROUND CONTACTS, FIVE MINE/ BOOBY TRAPS AND TWO
SNIPINGS. THERE WERE NO REPEAT NO COMMUNIST LAND- OR HAMLET-
GRAB ATTEMPTS, AND ON OTHER HAND MR 3 REPORT DOES NOT REFLECT
HIGH LEVEL OF RVNAF AIR AND ARTILLERY EXPENDITURE INTENDED TO
FORESTALL ANY SUCH COMMUNIST ATTEMPT. CASUALTIES FOR THE DAY
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WERE REPORTED AS FIVE RVNAF KILLED, 25 WOUNDED, AND TWO MISSING, WHILE KNOWN VC/ NVA LOSSES WERE SIX KILLED AND ONE CAPTURED.

2. COMMUNISTS FIRED 80 ROUNDS OF MIXED MORTAR AND 140 ROUNDS OF B-40 INTO TONLE CHAM RANGER BASE CAMP JUNE 14, KILLING ONE AND WOUNDING ONE. ELSEWHERE IN BINH LONG THERE WERE TWO LIGHT CONTACTS BETWEEN SMALL UNITS NEAR AN LOC. IN TAY NINH PROVINCE THERE WERE LIGHT ATTACKS BY FIRE AND SMALL UNIT CONTACTS NORTH AND EAST OF NUI BA DEN; IN HAU NGHIA THERE WAS GROUND SKIRMISHING AND HARRASSING ATTACKS BY FIRE WEST OF THE VAN CO DONG RIVER. IN LONG AN AND PHUOC TUY PROVINCES, TERRITORIAL FORCES SUSTAINED SCATTERED HARRASSING LIGHT ATTACKS BY FIRE AND LIGHT GROUND CONTACT. IN THU DUC DISTRICT, GIA DINH, VC/ NVA ATTACKED RF COMPANY LEAVING BEHIND TWO KILLED AND ONE AK-47 AND SOME DOCUMENTS.

3. ARVN 25 TH INFANTRY DIVISION CG BG LE VAN TU TOLD CONSUL JUNE 14 THAT HE STILL EXPECTED A VC/ NVA LAND GRAB ATTACK IN TAY NINH AND HAU NGHIA BEFORE 12 NOON ON THE 15 TH. HE SAID HE WOULD OPPOSE ANY SUCH COMMUNIST ATTEMPTS WITH ALL THE FORCE AT HIS DISPOSAL. MOREOVER, THE EMPHASIS WHICH HE GAVE TO COMMUNIST PERFIDY AND MILITARY PREPARATIONS CAUSED CONSUL TO CONCLUDE THAT TU REMAINS HIGHLY SUSPICIOUS OF COMMUNIST INTENTIONS. CONSUL DETECTED NO CHANGE IN ATTITUDE FROM THE WARY DISTRUSTFUL CAUTION THAT CHARACTERIZED ARVN OFFICERS' REACTION TO THE PARIS PEACE AGREEMENT.

4. TU SAID THAT COMMUNISTS NEVER KEEP AGREEMENTS THEY MAKE WITH OTHER PARTIES; HE IMPLIED THAT THE COMMUNISTS WOULD NOT KEEP THE NEWEST KISSINGER- THO AGREEMENT. CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT COMMUNISTS RARELY KEEP AGREEMENTS THEY SIGN, AND POINTING OUT THE CLEAR MILITARY ADVANTAGES GAINED BY THE COMMUNISTS FROM THE ORIGINAL PARIS AGREEMENT, TU IMPLIED BY SUCH STATEMENTS AS " THE WHOLE SITUATION IS IN YOUR (AMERICAN) HANDS" THAT AMERICA HAD AGAIN COERCED VIET NAM INTO SIGNING AN AGREEMENT THAT WAS BAD FOR THE SOUTH.

5. COMMENT: IF TU' S REACTION TO THE KISSINGER- THO AGREEMENT IS TYPICAL OF THE GVN LEADERSHIP, AND THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT IT IS NOT, THEN THEY LOOK AT THIS AGREEMENT AS YET ANOTHER EROSION IN THEIR POSITION VIS- A- VIS THE NORTH AND
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THE VC. SINCE THEY SO DISTRUST THE NORTH' S ULTIMATE COMMITMENT TO PEACE, THEY CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE VERY UNWILLING TO MAKE ANY CONCESSIONS TO THE NORTH. TU SHOWED HIMSELF ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE TO ANY CONCESSION OF TERRITORY, AND MADE ABSOLUTELY NO MENTION OF MEETINGS WITH HIS VC/ NVA MILITARY COUNTERPART TO ARRANGE TERMS FOR A REAL CEASE- FIRE.

6. BG TU' S LITTLE BROTHER, LONG AN PROVINCE CHIEF COL. LE
VAN NAM, TOLD DEPARTING RRO
E E E E E E

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